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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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Subject: Responsibilities of the Office of Scientific Intelligence  
(Summary of discussion between Mr. Piel and Mr. [redacted] of Management 29 November 1951)

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1. The coordination and production of scientific intelligence was found to be very deficient in the Federal Government by the Dulles Committee, the Hoover Commission and the Eberstat Committee who surveyed the intelligence program of CIA and other Government agencies during the latter half of 1948. To correct this deficiency, in January of 1949 a small scientific division of the Agency was elevated to Office stature and appropriately named the Office of Scientific Intelligence. Staffing and organizational provision for this Office considerably exceeded like provision in the other intelligence agencies.

2. Subsequently, Agency competence in the scientific area was also strengthened in the other Offices of the Agency. A scientific branch was established in both the Contact Division and the Foreign Documents Division of the Office of Operations. The Technical Guidance Staff of the Office of Special Operations was given new emphasis. The Biographic Register of the Office of Collection and Dissemination assumed responsibilities assigned to the Agency under NSCID no. 8 relating to maintenance of Scientific Biographical data.

3. From its inception, officials of the Office of Scientific Intelligence have broadly interpreted the responsibilities of the AD/SI to include coordination of the total scientific intelligence effort in the Federal Government and all steps of the intelligence process. Coordination was listed as the primary responsibility with production taking second billing. Attached are statements prepared by SI officials in the first year of OSI's existence which express their thinking on the role of the Office of Scientific Intelligence.

4. The management tool employed to effect coordination within the intelligence community was an interdepartmental committee under the chairmanship of CIA. This act was formalized by DCI 3/3, dated 28 October 1949. To maintain control of the Committee and its sub-committees, OSI established itself as the point of contact between the other intelligence agencies and CIA on all matters of scientific intelligence including requirements and collection. Direct exchange between the operations offices of CIA and other intelligence agencies on scientific and technical matters was discouraged.

5. While OSI was busy negotiating with the other intelligence agencies to obtain their cooperation, it assumed that its leadership in scientific matters within CIA was understood. However, OSI's role as the programmer and only point of contact on scientific intelligence matters has not been fully accepted by the operations agencies of the Agency. Present Agency policy has permitted direct exchange between Agency collection offices and other intelligence agencies on requirements and collection matters. Also, each collection Office has been

free to program its effort independently taking into consideration in such programming the requirements of all its customers and adjusting its program to provide maximum service to all customers. Both OSO and OO do not feel that the scientific portion of their activities should be treated differently, namely, tailored to OSI's needs which are set forth by OSI as representing the intelligence community. Also, the collection Offices do not want to be cut off from direct contact with customers in the other agencies as OSI proposes.

6. Now, OSI feels that its prestige and leadership in the intelligence community is being undermined and the coordination it has achieved through the Scientific Intelligence Committee may be destroyed by ineffectual Committee action unless it is recognized as leader and only point of contact on scientific matters within the CIA.



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